

REMARKS

Claims 5, 16 and 33 have been amended. Claims 5, 12, 16, 33, 39, 41 and 43 are pending in this application.

Claims 5, 16, 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,457) in view of Ruzicka (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,876), Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,589,718), Siems (U.S. Patent No. 5,470,253), Glover (U.S. Patent No. 3,824,524) and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) of Figs. 12-14. Claims 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA, and further in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,717). Claims 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert in view of AAPA, Siems and Glover.

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims (claims 5, 16 and 33) are patentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems, Glover, the alleged AAPA and Lee '717.

Applicant's invention as recited in claim 5 is directed toward a multi-channel audio system including an electronic apparatus having a back panel with at least five audio signal output terminals for a plurality of channels, a communication system. The system includes a plurality of connecting cable members, where each of the cable members incorporates a pair of conductor members bearing a pair of polarities and sheathed by one of a plurality of insulating sheathing members for connecting the electronic apparatus to a plurality of speakers for generating acoustic output for each of the plurality of channels. In addition, claim 5 recites "a colored mark that shows discernment corresponding to channels of the respective output terminal is displayed surrounding the respective output terminal on the back panel of the electronic apparatus whereat the audio signal output terminals are located," and "each of the

plurality of connecting cable members is distinguished by one of said plurality of colors corresponding to a color distribution of said colored marks surrounding each of said audio signal output terminals." Further, claim 5 recites that "for each of the connecting cable members, the sheathing member is distinguished by a different colored mark at a portion corresponding to each of the pair of conductor members."

(Emphasis added). Also, claim 5 recites that "each of said plurality of connecting cable members incorporates ... a second thermally contractile tube bearing one of said plurality of colors corresponding to the color distribution of said colored marks surrounding each of said audio signal output terminals, the second tube being secured to the sheathing member of the connecting cable member such that the portions of the sheathing member having the different colored marks corresponding to the pair of conductor members extend from the second tube toward both ends of the connecting cable member." (Emphasis added)

Supporting disclosure for the emphasized recitation and a discussion of its advantages can be found in the specification at, for example, pg. 28, ln. 14-20 and pg. 23, ln. 13-27 and FIG. 4. Claims 16 and 33 include similar recitations.

Neither Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems, Glover, the alleged AAPA nor Lee '717 appear to disclose the emphasized recitation. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 5, 16 and 33 are patentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems, Glover, the alleged AAPA and Lee '717 - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant submits that dependent claims 12, 39, 41 and 43 are patentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems, Glover, the alleged AAPA and Lee '717 for at

least the same reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,
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